

Another season's work on the part of Mr. Wayne will doubtless throw more light on all these points. Meanwhile, ornithologists may well rest satisfied with the knowledge thus far obtained.—*The Auk*, vol. ii. pp. 346–8.

[Specimens of Swainson's Warbler are very rare in European collections. In the British Museum the only example until lately has been a single female, obtained by Mr. Edward Newton in Jamaica (see A. Newton, P. Z. S. 1879, p. 552, and Sharpe, Cat. Birds, x. p. 233). To this has been lately added one of the fine adult males procured by Mr. Wayne, as above recorded, which was kindly sent to Selater by Dr. Coues, and transferred by him to the British Museum in the name of the latter gentleman.—EDD.]

IV.—*On the Birds of Aden and the Neighbourhood.* By Major J. W. YERBURY, R.A. *With Notes* by R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S. &c.

(Plate II.)

THE peninsula of Aden (Plate II.) is situated in lat. $12^{\circ} 47'$ N. and long. $44^{\circ} 59'$ E., and is, roughly speaking, five miles in its greatest length and three miles in breadth. The centre of the peninsula is formed by the Shum-shum range of mountains, the highest peak of which rises to 1760 feet. From this range spurs run down to the sea, with deep ravines between them, ending at the sea in sandy beaches. On the north side an elevated plateau lies between the cantonment of Aden and the foot of the range, this plateau being deeply cut by watercourses. The peninsula is joined to the mainland by a low, sandy, and barren isthmus, about two miles long by three quarters of a mile broad. The general character of the country inland is a sandy plain, with salsola (near the sea), babool, and caper bushes, a little cultivation being found in the neighbourhood of Shaikh Othman and Huswah. This plain, with some small rolling sandhills, stretches almost as far as Al Hautah (Lahej), about four miles

south of which cultivation commences and continues as far as Haith-al-him, about eight miles above Lahej. Just above Haith-al-him the river bifurcates, and it is between the branches of this fork that all the cultivation lies. This oasis is very fertile and produces jowari, Indian corn, telli, and other crops. Besides these fields there are several gardens, in which vegetables are grown, with groves of date-palms, almond, and other trees: grapes also are grown.

At Haith-al-him there appear to be the remains of an old garden, some fine old tamarind-trees standing there, as well as some mango, fig, and almond trees. The bund that causes the river to bifurcate is some four miles above Haith-al-him, and the river above this point runs in a single bed past Zaidah, situated about fourteen miles from Lahej*. There is a little cultivation on the left bank of the river opposite Zaidah. About eight miles beyond Zaidah the outlying spurs of the hills are met with. The country from the Barrier Gate to Zaidah is almost level, being only broken here and there by low sandhills, and the rise is probably only a few feet.

As may be supposed, the birds of Aden proper are few, the residents being confined to the following:—a Bulbul, a Dove, a Robin, a Weaver-bird, a Rock-Martin, a Kite, a Raven, the Osprey, and the Egyptian Vulture, and probably two or three more kinds of Hawk. All the above, I believe, remain and, with the exception of the Raven, breed with us, as I have seen them in every month of the year, and have found the nests of two or three of them. Some others, notably the shore-birds and Gulls, are regular visitants; most of the former being cold-weather visitors, while the latter seem to be with us all the year round. During the cold weather some two or three kinds of Chats visit us also. I

* A map of Aden and the neighbourhood, on a scale of about 6 inches to a mile, is attached to this paper (Plate II.). The green shows roughly the cultivation near Lahej. The rivers, though shown in the map, are practically dry beds. The Huswah branch is said to come down to the sea yearly, but the Imad branch has probably not come down for many years. For further details of the geography and statistics of Aden, see Hunter's 'Statistical Account of the British Settlement of Aden' (Trübner & Co., 1877).

have taken notes of the birds seen in the neighbourhood, their dates of occurrence, &c., and have tried to identify them; but as my books of reference have only been Jerdon's 'Birds of India,' Blanford's 'Geology and Zoology of Abyssinia,' and Von der Decken's 'Travels in Somali Land, &c.' the identifications are in some cases conjectural.

[Major Yerbury has sent a small collection of these birds to the British Museum, which I have identified, and to the species so determined I have attached a dagger (†). The collection sent to Mr. Hume has unfortunately been mislaid, and neither he nor I could find it at Simla. When found, Mr. Hume will send the skins to the British Museum, and, if further questions arise as to their identification, I will send a note to a future number of 'The Ibis.'—R. B. S.]

1. EGYPTIAN VULTURE. (*Neophron percnopterus*.)

This bird is a resident with us all the year round, and breeds in the high cliffs near the Main Pass gate and at two or three other places on the Shum-shum range, forming large colonies. It is found generally throughout the neighbourhood of Aden.

Besides this Vulture, I believe two other species are to be found in the neighbourhood. The first I have always taken for an immature specimen of *N. percnopterus*. It is of about the same size, but instead of being white with black wings, it is of a dirty mottled brown.

The other is only seen inland, near Al Hautah (Lahej), and is a very large bird, the back appearing to be of a light colour (grey) as compared with the dark brown of the head and wings.

2. KESTREL. (*Cerchneis*, sp. inc.)

The Kestrel is, I believe, a resident in Aden proper. I found a pair, apparently breeding, in the high cliffs above the Mahilla plain.

I fancy that two or three other birds of prey remain with us all the year round. One is apparently a Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter*). The others I have been unable to make out.

3. OSPREY. (*Pandion haliaetus*.)

Another resident, though I fancy there are only three or four pairs in the whole peninsula. It breeds in the cliffs near the sea. The head, neck, and breast are white, the quills being darker. A pair frequent Steamer Point, and may be seen perched on the flagstaff in front of the Eastern Telegraph Co.'s office, on the rails in front of the R.A. mess-house, and elsewhere, affording a good view of the birds.

Inland, among other Hawks, one sees a very handsome Harrier, of a blue-grey colour with black tips to the wings.

4. KITE. (? *Milvus aegyptius*.)

A Kite, probably the above species, is also a resident. In Aden it breeds on the cliffs, inland on small trees. A nest containing two eggs was found by me in the month of February 1870 on a cliff near the sea. The eggs were very like those of the English Sparrow-Hawk in their markings.

5. BARN-OWL. (*Strix flammea*.)

I have only seen one Owl in Aden. It was caught in the R.A. barracks on the 29th of May, 1870, after a tremendous storm, and was presented to the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich. It was apparently the same as the English Barn-Owl.

Owls of some sort are reported to frequent the neighbourhood of the houses of the agents of the P. & O. and Messagerie Maritime Companies, but I have never seen them.

An Owlet (*Carine*?) was seen near Lahej in some thick *Zizyphus* jungle, but only allowed me to get a fleeting glimpse.

6. SWALLOW. (*Hirundo rustica*.)

Visits Aden in rough weather; it may come at any time of the year, but only remains a few days.

†7. PALE CRAG-MARTIN. (*Cotile obsoleta*.)

A Crag-Martin is with us all the year round; it breeds in the caves.

[Major Yerbury sent me a skin of this bird, which is now recorded from a perfectly new locality for this species.—
R. B. S.]

8. SWIFT. (*Cypselus*, sp. inc.)

Shot near Lahej, March 16th, 1883. Its gizzard was full of golden-green Heteroptera.

Swifts are seen from time to time in Aden, and are believed to be of the same species.

9. GOATSUCKER. (*Caprimulgus*, sp. inc.)

A Goatsucker is met with now and again in Aden. It looks like *Caprimulgus asiaticus*.

†10. BEE-EATER. (*Merops cyanophrys*.)

Is common inland and visits the tanks occasionally. It is about the size of the Indian *M. viridis*.

A larger Bee-eater is to be seen occasionally in Aden; its note is like that of *M. apiaster*. It is generally seen in Aden after stormy weather.

[From Muscat the British Museum has lately received an example of an allied but new species of Bee-eater, which I propose to call *M. muscatensis*. It has a much smaller bill than *M. cyanophrys*, and quite a different shade of blue on the eyebrow.—R. B. S.]

11. ROLLER. (? *Coracias garrula*.)

A Roller is common inland. It is occasionally seen in Aden itself, and is apparently a resident. Gold Mohur valley, August 14, 1883; Huswah, August 5, 1883.

Another Roller was seen at Haith-al-him. It was of a light-blue colour, with elongated tail-feathers, and was probably *C. abyssinica*.

12. CUCKOO. (*Coccyzus*, sp. inc.)

A Crested Cuckoo was continually seen in Aden from the 15th of June to the 22nd of July, 1883, and at Huswah for more than a month afterwards.

13. CROW-PHEASANT. (*Centropus*, sp. inc.)

Is to be seen occasionally in thick jungle inland.

14. SUN-BIRD. (? *Nectarinia metallica*.)

Is to be seen at Huswah, Haith-al-him, Lahej, and other places inland. Those seen in the neighbourhood of Lahej in March 1883 had their long tail-feathers. I do not think any

other Sun-bird is found in this neighbourhood, those seen in the cold weather being probably specimens of the above species in non-breeding dress. I fancy it is a resident.

15. HOOPOE. (*Upupa epops.*)

A regular cold-weather visitant. Seen at Aden on the 16th of September, 1883; Huswah, Sept. 9th, 1883.

[A young Hoopoe followed the 'Ballaarat' for more than 100 miles as we were going north in July, and was first seen about 400 miles up the Red Sea from Aden. It rested occasionally on the ship, and settled especially on the chains below the stern of the vessel. As some of the passengers tried to catch it from the stern-windows, it was unable at last to reach its favourite perch, and fell exhausted into the sea.—R. B. S.]

16. SHRIKE. (*Lanius*, sp. inc.)

A large Shrike of the *L. lahtora* group is common and resident inland. Another large Shrike is also occasionally seen; it is of a dingier colour than the above.

A small Shrike, shot at Aden on the 17th of April, 1883, was sent to Mr. Hume. No record was kept of the description.

†17. NUBIAN SHRIKE. (*Lanius nubicus.*)

Shot at Lahej in January 1885.

†18. PARADISE FLYCATCHER. (*Terpsiphone cristata.*)

Shot near Lahej on the 26th of December, 1884. Several were seen in non-breeding plumage.

[Not before known from Arabia.—R. B. S.]

19. BLUE ROCK-THRUSH. (*Monticola cyanus.*)

A cold-weather visitant.

†20. BLACK-WINGED CHAT-THRUSH. (*Cercotrichas melanoptera.*)

Is a resident inland, and has an agreeable little song, which, though not loud, is sweet and varied.

21. BABBLING THRUSH. (*Argya*, sp. inc.)

A Babbler, very like the Indian "Seven Sisters," is frequently seen inland.

†22. BULBUL. (*Pycnonotus arsinoe*.)

Resident, both in Aden itself and also in the neighbourhood. I found the nest with three hard-set eggs in Gold Mohur valley, at Aden, on the 17th of April, 1883. The eggs were of the usual Bulbul type, and were sent to Mr. Hume at Simla.

A larger Bulbul is occasionally seen inland.

23. CHATS. (*Saxicola*, sp. inc.)

Two species, which I believe to be *S. aenanthæ* and *S. stapa*, are regular cold-weather visitants. More species may, perhaps, visit us in the cold weather, for I fancy I have seen a dark-coloured Chat as well.

†24. TEMMINCK'S CHAT-ROBIN. (*Myrmecocichla melanura*.)

The Aden Robin is a resident, and is reputed to build in holes in rocks, walls, &c., but I have never come across a nest. It has a very sweet little song.

25. REDSTART. (*Ruticilla*, sp. inc.)

An occasional cold-weather visitant.

26. WARBLER. (Sp. inc.)

A small Warbler seems to be a regular spring visitant, several being seen in the caper-bushes on the hill-sides during May and June 1883. Skin sent to Mr. Hume.

27. WHITE WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla alba*.)

A regular cold-weather visitant, appearing, too, at odd times of the year. It never remains long, excepting in the cold weather.

28. BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla feldeggii*.)

A species of yellow Wagtail with a black head is occasionally to be seen inland.

29, 30. CROWS. (*Corvus*, sp. inc.)

A Raven, which I think must be *Corvus affinis*, is a resident, but has, I believe, been imported. There are only three individuals, and the number does not seem to increase.

A very large Raven is seen in the desert inland.

A Crow is very common just outside the Isthmus position, but rarely comes into Aden. The plumage of most of these Crows has a peculiar rusty look; many are also marked with white. They appear to be residents, but I do not know where they breed.

†31. WATTLED STARLING. (*Dilophus carunculatus*.)

Shot at Huswah on the 3rd of August out of a flock of five or six.

†32. WEAVER-BIRD. (*Hyphantornis galbula*.)

A Weaver-bird is resident at Aden. It breeds at the tanks and one or two other places in camp, and it is very common inland at Lahej.

†33. WAXBILL. (*Estrela rufibarba*.)

Common in the neighbourhood of Lahej.

34. SPARROW. (*Passer*, sp. inc.)

A Sparrow is common at Lahej and Shaikh Othman, but is only occasionally seen at Aden at the tanks.

†35. FINCH-LARK. (*Pyrhulauda melanauchen*.)

A black-bellied Finch-Lark is common about Shaikh Othman and generally in the desert districts. The birds in the neighbourhood appear to have more black, of a deeper tint, underneath than the Indian ones (*P. grisea*).

36. CRESTED LARK. (*Alauda cristata*.)

The Crested Lark is common inland.

†37. DESERT-LARK. (*Alæmon desertorum*.)

Common just outside the Isthmus lines and generally in the desert inland. On first seeing this bird it appears strange and unlike a Lark, but on watching its habits closely they are seen to be more truly Lark-like than they appear at first.

38. GREEN PIGEON. (*Treron*, sp. inc.)

A *Treron*, probably *T. abyssinica*, was found in a large flock at Haith-al-him in March 1883. Unfortunately, all those shot were eaten, and no record was kept of their colour, dimensions, &c.

39. TURTLE-DOVE. (*Turtur*, sp. inc.)

A resident, breeding at the tanks and in some of the water-courses on the Shum-shum plateau.

Three or four more kinds of Doves are to be met with inland, while both in Aden itself and inland also some Pigeons (*Columba livia*) have become wild.

†40. LONG-TAILED DOVE. (*Æna capensis*.)

Common at Lahej all the year round, but appears to visit Huswah and Shaikh Othman only in the summer and autumn. A nest with two eggs (sent to you) was found in a low salsola bush at Huswah on the 9th of September, 1883. The bird sat so close that I tried to catch her in a butterfly-net.

41. SAND-GROUSE. (*Pterocles exustus*.)

Very common inland, particularly in the month of March, when numbers are to be seen in the morning, about 8.30 A.M., going down to the streams to drink. It is called "Uht-Uht" by the Arabs of the Lahej district, presumably from its note.

†42. LICHTENSTEIN'S SAND-GROUSE. (*Pterocles lichtensteini*.)

Found in a large flock of from eighty to one hundred individuals at Shulaif, near Lahej, in March 1883. Since that time I have only seen these birds in small flocks of four or five. Of two, which I killed out of a flock of five near the head of the Bir Ahmed creek on the 16th of December, 1884, the dimensions were as follows:—

♂. Expanse 21·4 inches, length 11·1, wing 2·5. Crop full of seeds, apparently of salsola and baubul.

♀. Expanse 18·2 inches, length 10·6, wing 2·1. Food as before. Ovaries small.

Bare skin round the eyes yellow; legs light dingy yellow-ochre.

†43. BLACK-HEADED PARTRIDGE. (*Caccabis melanocephala*.)

A large Chukor, called "Ukhob" by the Arabs, is common at Haith-al-him and along the road to Zaidah. It frequents the ravines running down to the river, at times lying very close in the bushes. They are found in flocks of from

six to twelve individuals, and are very strong on the wing, carrying away a lot of shot. A female killed on the 22nd of March, 1883, had her ovaries very large, and this is evidently the breeding-season. One was shot near Zaidah on the 30th December, 1884. Hume, in the 'Game Birds of India,' says that *C. chukar* is found near Aden, but I have never seen it. It is probably met with in the hills beyond Zaidah, a point I have never reached.

44. COMMON QUAIL. (*Coturnix dactylisonans*.)

The Common Quail is a regular cold-weather visitant, I fancy from October to May. Numbers are brought into the Aden market at times from the interior. It is not uncommon even in Aden itself.

†45. BUSTARD. (*Eupodotis arabs*.)

The "Balawan" of the Arabs is fairly common round Lahej. I shot one at Haith-al-him on the 19th of March, 1883. This skin was sent to Mr. Hume. Again I obtained some near Lahej in December 1884 and January 1885. The gizzard of these last specimens contained fragments of locusts, small ground-beetles, and ripe jowari seeds (*Sorghum vulgare*). The ovaries of all the females were very small. It is a resident species.

A Houbara and a smaller Bustard (? *Otis melanogaster*) are, I believe, also occasionally found in the neighbourhood.

46. GOLDEN PLOVER. (*Charadrius plumialis*.)

A Golden Plover is an occasional cold-weather visitant.

47. THICKNEE. (? *Ædicnemus scolopax*.)

The Stone-Plover is common in the neighbourhood during the cold weather. It is often seen in Aden itself.

48. TURNSTONE. (*Streptilas interpres*.)

A regular cold-weather visitant. A male, shot on the 18th of May, 1883, was assuming its summer plumage.

49. CRAB-PLOVER. (*Dromas ardeola*.)

A regular visitant during the cold weather.

50. OYSTER-CATCHER. (*Hæmatopus ostralegus*.)

Appears to remain here all the year round, but I doubt its breeding.

51. SNIPE. (*Gallinago*, sp. inc.)

A Snipe is occasionally met with in the flooded fields near Lahej and also in the bed of the river, but I have only seen one.

52. TEREK SANDPIPER. (*Terekia cinerea*.)

Cold-weather visitant, when it is met with on the mud-flats up the harbour.

53. CURLEW. (*Numenius arquata*.)

54. WHIMBREL. (*Numenius phæopus*.)

Appear to remain all the year round.

55. DUNLIN. (*Tringa cinclus*.)

A regular winter visitor. Those shot in May were assuming the summer plumage.

56. SANDERLING. (*Calidris arenaria*.)

Cold-weather visitant.

57. COMMON SANDPIPER. (*Actitis hypoleuca*.)

Common on the rocks and on the coast all the year round.

58. GREENSHANK. (*Totanus ochropus*.)

59. REDSHANK. (*Totanus calidris*.)

According to Mr. Chevallier, the latter species is common on the mud-flats up the harbour. The Greenshank, Redshank, and Sanderling are often seen in large flocks.

60. GREEN SANDPIPER. (*Totanus hypoleucus*.)

Shot by Mr. Chevallier near Lahej in January.

61. STINT. (*Tringa*, sp. inc.)

Seen by Mr. Chevallier on the mud-flats.

62. COURIER PLOVER. (*Cursorius*, sp. inc.)

A Courier Plover was shot by Mr. Chevallier on two occasions, near the Barrier Gate and at Huswah. I also saw two at Haith-al-him on the 30th of December, 1884.

There are probably more species of Plover to be found up the harbour on the mud, notably one like the Dotterel (? *Ægialitis geoffroyi*).

63. HERON. (*Ardea*, sp. inc.)

Two Blue Herons, one large, the other small, are to be seen, on and off, all the year round on the mud-flats up the harbour, and they are, perhaps, more frequent during the cold weather.

64. EGRETS. (? *Herodias*, sp. inc.)

One shot at Lahej in January had a buff crest, yellow eyes, and greenish-black legs. A quantity of Egrets were breeding in March 1883 in some small baubul trees near a village about three miles from Lahej. Egrets of various sorts are often seen on the mud-flats up the harbour.

65. SPOONBILL. (*Platalea leucorodia*.)

A cold-weather visitant.

66. IBIS. (Sp. inc.)

A dark-coloured Ibis was seen near Zaidah. I believe it breeds in the high tamarind-trees near Haith-al-him.

67. FLAMINGO. (*Phœnicopterus roseus*.)

A regular visitant in the cold season.

68. COMMON TEAL. (*Querquedula crecca*.)

A male and female were shot in the river between Haith-al-him and Zaidah on the 29th of December, 1884. I have only seen this pair, but I believe it to be a regular cold-weather visitor. All Ducks are called "Büt" by the Arabs. Mr. Chevallier has shot Ducks near Little Aden, also up the Khora-Muksa creek. Other species of Duck are doubtless to be found during the cold weather, but I have never seen them.

69. HEMPRICH'S GULL. (*Larus hemprichi*.)

Found here all the year round. I do not think that any Gull or Tern breeds on Aden. If it does, it will be probably on the high cliffs near Round Island.

[This pretty medium-sized Gull is quite a feature of the voyage in the Red Sea. On our journey down in May several

appeared behind the ship when we were about opposite Suakim, and from that latitude until we arrived at Aden we were never without a few in our company. They were perfectly tame, and came so close to the stern of the 'Ancona' that the colour on the bill was distinctly visible. All were then in full breeding-plumage, with very distinct hoods. On the return voyage in July the Gulls were still in breeding-dress, but evidently worn and abraded. While we were laying off Aden in quarantine they came round the 'Ballaarat' in numbers, often sailing within a few feet of the side of the vessel. Some accompanied us for about a day's journey up the Red Sea, but they were not met with on our return journey so far north as in May. Although this Gull has been found on the Mekran coast and as far east as Karachi by Mr. Hume, we saw none after leaving Aden.—R. B. S.]

70. BLACK-BACKED GULL. (*Larus*, sp. inc.)

Common in the cold weather.

71. GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL. (*Larus ichthyaetus*.)

Fairly common in the cold weather.

72. SWIFT TERN. (*Sterna bergi*.)

This is here all the year round, I believe.

[About 460 miles north of Aden, in the Red Sea, we came across a large flock of these Terns in mid ocean, all busily engaged over a shoal of fish. Their cries could be heard a long distance off, and there were quite a couple of hundred in the flock.—R. B. S.]

73. LITTLE TERN. (*Sterna minuta*.)

Killed at Bundu Manyah, on the Somali coast, on the 27th of April, 1884. This species also occurs at Aden.

There is, I believe, another species of Tern, intermediate in size between the above two species. [This will probably be *Sterna albigena*, of which species I saw a pair in the Indian Ocean, about 100 miles beyond Aden, on the 18th of July.—R. B. S.]

74. TROPIC-BIRD. (*Phaethon indicus*, Hume.)

A cold-weather visitant.

75. PELICAN. (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*.)

One shot on the 1st of June, 1883: a regular visitant in May, when several were seen. A skin was sent to Mr. Hume.

76. CORMORANT. (*Phalacrocorax*, sp. inc.)

A brown Cormorant seen in numbers on a detached rock below the lighthouse at Marshag.

V.—Notes on the Birds of the Upper Engadine.

By HENRY SEEBOHM.

It is a long climb from the plains of Lombardy to the valley of the Upper Engadine. Lake Como is a little more than a thousand feet above the level of the sea; a further climb of rather more than fifteen hundred feet brings the traveller to Promontogno, and a long two thousand feet more lands him at Casaccia, but there is still more than one thousand feet of zigzags before the top of the Maloja Pass is reached. The new Maloja Hotel is perhaps the finest in Switzerland; it is nearly six thousand feet above the level of the sea, and forms a centre of unusual interest. From a geographical point of view it may be regarded as on the water-parting between the Italian and Austrian river-systems (the one leading through the Valley of the Po to the Adriatic, and the other through that of the Danube to the Black Sea), whilst it is less than six miles from the valley of the Rhine, and only about sixty miles from the source of the Rhone. To the geologist the scarped and scored rocks on the Kulm (the culminating point of the pass) and the heaps of gravel and the piles of granite boulders point out the course of the ancient glacier, now shrunk back a thousand feet up the Forno valley, with little but its moraines to tell the tale of its former greatness. The artist may find views, too grand for transference to paper or canvas, by ascending any of the smaller spurs of the mountains, whence he can look down a couple of thousand feet towards Italy, or by passing along the chain of lakes to St. Moritz, or by climbing up the icy peak of the Pitz Bernina,



VICINITY OF ADEN.

Edw. Waller. lith.